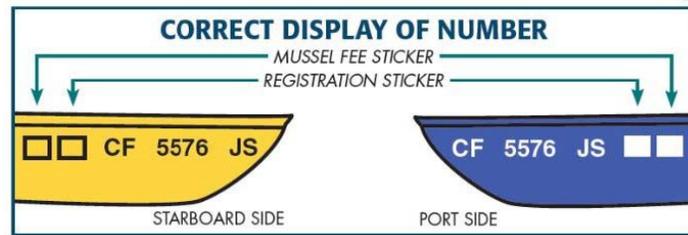




January 2016

Mussel Fee Paid sticker requirements for California registered vessels

As of January 1, 2014, California registered recreational vessels using fresh water bodies within the state are required to display a “Mussel Fee Paid” sticker on the hull next to the current registration sticker as follows:



2017 Mussel Fee Paid sticker sample (NOTE: Color matches registration sticker color)



Exemptions:

Vessels exempt from payment of the mussel fee shall be limited to the following:

- (a) **Vessels used exclusively in marine waters** (California coastal and bay waters, which includes Suisun Bay up to and west of Chipps Island) as defined in CCR Title 14, Division 4, Chapter 1, Article 1.5, Section 5207 (a).
- (b) **Vessels exempt from payment of a registration fee** as defined in Vehicle Code 9851, irrespective of whether the vessel is operated in fresh or marine waters (salt water).

Paying the Mussel Fee does not entitle vessels to bypass inspections or fees for inspections conducted by individual reservoir owners or managers. Boaters should contact the particular reservoir office directly for information regarding their inspection program and their requirements prior to visiting. A list of watercraft inspection programs and contact information is available at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/invasives/quaggamussel/>.

Enforcement:

Proper display of numbers and registration stickers now includes proper display of the Mussel Fee Paid stickers, and is part of the California vessel registration requirements under California Vehicle Code sections 9850, 9853 and 9862. Vessels failing to properly display those stickers may be cited by law enforcement. Marine law enforcement shall utilize a wide variety of enforcement strategies that include education, warning and citations for violations of this regulation.

Eligibility:

Moneys collected via the Mussel Fee will aid in infestation prevention and education efforts through grant funding administered by DBW. This grant is open to eligible agencies that own or manage a reservoir that permits recreational activities such as boating and fishing, is open to the public and currently uninfested with the dreissenid mussel.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Program**

Recent legislation requires the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to collect fee of \$8 per year (\$16 total on the two-year registration renewal) on behalf of the Department of Parks and Recreation Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) on all recreational vessels subject to registration in the State of California. The original legislation set the fee to be no greater than \$10 a year per boat and directed a Technical Advisory Group made up of specific interested parties to advise DBW on what the fee should be. Following meetings with the group, DBW determined that the fee should be set at \$8 per year (\$16 total on the two-year registration period). This fee is mandatory and shall be collected every other year.

Boats used only in marine water (salt water) such as along the California coast and bay areas such as San Francisco, Suisun Bay up to and west of Chipps Island, Monterey or San Diego are exempt from the Mussel Fee requirement. Fresh water boaters must pay the Mussel Fee and display the Mussel Fee Paid sticker even if the vessel is only used in one lake.

The fee will fund prevention programs at uninfested reservoirs open to the public for recreational activities. A prevention program, per the Fish and Game Code Section 2302, is a program intended to prevent the introduction of quagga and zebra mussels into California waters. Section 2302 applies to entities that own or manage reservoirs open to the public. Prevention programs must include an assessment of the reservoir vulnerability to the introduction of mussels, public education, monitoring for mussels, and management of the recreational activities allowed at the reservoir. These grants will help water managers develop prevention programs, implement programs, or expand upon an existing program.

DBW's website (<http://www.dbw.ca.gov/PDF/FAQ-QuaggaFee.pdf>) has additional information on the Mussel Fee.

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